

Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum
from
Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday
April 14, 2020

Notes

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, NSLAPR; Liz Moore, NV State Archives; Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County; Jeff Scott, Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Bethie Schnapp, Joy Gunn, Leona Vittum-Jones, Henderson; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County; Amy Lauder, Carson City; Shelly Alexander, Garrett Dacay, North Las Vegas; Kathy Brinkerhoff, Pershing County; Jeanne Bleecker, Smoky Valley; Kim Diehm, Boulder City; Cyndi O, NV Library CoOp; Anna Brueher, Lyon Co. School District; Pamela Bidart, Humboldt Co. School District; Mary Shultz, UNR Medical Library; Caprice Roberson, CSN; Eric Walsh, Great Basin College; Maggie Farrell, UNLV; Jeanne Price, UNLV Law Library and SCLL; Nancy Schmidt, SCLL.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW



Strengths:

- Libraries are reaching out to help other libraries as well as finding ways to help their communities
- Libraries are looking for ways to help outside of traditional library services (3D printing of PPE for fire departments, nursing home workers, Student Health Center)
- Patrons are catching on to Overdrive and other online resources
- Libraries are finding solutions that work for their communities and local circumstances
- Libraries are quickly figuring out to transition to a virtual presence



Struggles:

- Staff morale
- Adapting summer reading and other programming to online
- Budget reductions during current FY and planning for cuts in next FY
- Possibility of staff furloughs
- Finding electronic versions of academic textbooks
- Digital inequity



Opportunities

- Activities to boost staff morale
- Plenty of room for creativity – good time to try new things or doing things differently
- CARES Act funding for Nevada
- Great time to try new ways of doing things



Trends

- Schools and libraries are finding ways to partner and work together
- Transition to online summer reading programs may be easier because students will be accustomed to online school
- Increased use of online resources

Welcome – Tammy Westergard welcomed everyone and said the purpose of the meeting is to stay connected as a library community, to learn from each other, and to help each other as we deal with Covid-19 and recovery from it. She mentioned that Jeff Scott from Washoe County and Tod Colegrove from Carson City had recently been featured in the media. She was contacted by PLA for examples of libraries helping businesses and referred them to the North Las Vegas library as an outstanding example.

Summer Reading - the time for summer reading programs is fast approaching and it's unclear what the status of library closures will be then, Library Development staff convened a meeting on Monday, April 13 with 41 people attending. The purpose was for all those involved in summer reading preparation to begin a conversation about their thoughts and expectations for summer reading this year. Outcomes of the meeting included interest in creating a statewide calendar of library programming that all libraries could contribute to and would be available to library patrons statewide; a desire for guidance regarding the advisability of having in-person programming; creation of a Facebook group for summer reading; and a weekly check-in meeting for sharing and brainstorming.

NV Department of Education – Tammy was contacted by DOE regarding a reading initiative. They are in the process of acquiring a product for students which connects students' Lexile reading levels with book suggestions. It presents a real opportunity for a coordinated summer program between schools and libraries. DOE and the Governor's office will be making announcements about this initiative, and ideally public library summer reading programs will be included so that parents and students will have the full picture of the opportunities available to them.

CARES Act – DOE does not have good information about the number of students without connectivity, and this directly relates to the CARES Act. IMLS just announced that \$30,000,000 of their \$50,000,000 allocation from the CARES Act will be allocated to the states based on population. Nevada is set to receive \$278,318 with no match required. The funds are specifically intended to expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services. We are still in the factfinding stage and are gathering information about connectivity and underserved areas.

Covid response-3D printer utilization - several libraries including Carson City, Washoe County, UNR and UNLV are using their printers to create facemasks for use by health care workers, firemen, nursing home staff, and student health center employees. Form 2 and 3 printers can also be used to print swabs used for testing, and anyone with one of those printers is encouraged to contact Tod Colegrove at the Carson City library if interested in taking part. Shelly Alexander from North Las Vegas said they are

working on faceshields but are waiting to hear if there is a need; however, she was able to connect someone who had made masks with an organization coordinating supply and demand. Washoe County library has printed 191 faceshields and is working with local partners including UNR to make more.

Covid response-digital resources – Tammy read a letter sent to all North Las Vegas residents by the Mayor Pro Tem which listed the many digital resources available at the library. She also thanked Cyndi O and the member libraries of the Nevada Library Cooperative for their efforts to make ecards easily available.

Library Updates:

Washoe County – Looking forward to a National Library Week proclamation and received a \$5,000 grant for the North Valleys library for a STEM project. They have also received great press coverage about the library's services to their patrons during the closure.

Nancy Schmidt - NVReads – Stephanie Gibson from NV Humanities and Cyndi O, NV Library CoOp, met about increasing the CoOp libraries' involvement, and Stephanie also met with Washoe County library staff about combining NVReads with the Reno Literary Crawl. Jeff Scott added that Overdrive has agreed to provide simultaneous access to the NVReads titles for all Nevada library patrons. Nancy stressed the importance of including family units in all NVReads activities and observed that there are new opportunities for family literacy activities. Tammy mentioned that NVReads and family literacy resources could ideally be embedded in the letter to parents that DOE will be sending out. Nancy agreed this would be a great way to strengthen school and public library partnerships.

Kathie Brinkerhoff – fortunately still no cases in Pershing County. More people are discovering Overdrive and other online resources through the library's Facebook group and other local Facebook groups.

Carol Lloyd – Churchill County now has a confirmed case. The library launched their ecard last night and issued a press release; six or seven people have signed up already. She gave a shout out to John Andrews from Washoe County for his technical assistance. She said that once the process was nailed down, it wasn't hard to do (and observed that is the case with most things). They are strategizing summer reading and are planning for it to be totally online. If they are able to open during the summer, they will figure out in-person programming then.

Jeanne Bleecker – reported that things are going well in Smoky Valley with no reported cases. Like Pershing County, they will give items to patrons who call ahead. Because they had already purchased candy and items for prizes, they let parents come to the library to shop for Easter goodies for their children, and 142 children benefitted. Parents called for appointments and came in 15 minute intervals.

Jeanne Price – commented that it's nice to hear all that is going on at other libraries. The biggest challenge at the UNLV Law Library has been getting electronic versions of student textbooks, but the publishers have been cooperative. On the lighter side, the library created a hashtag and online forum for students and professors to share their experiences. They will collect and save the postings for future reference to show how everyone coped during the current situation. Staff are working from home, and research is continuing apace. She gave a shoutout to the public libraries for all they are doing.

Nevada State Library – Tammy reported on behalf of the State Library that Ask a Librarian live chat was set up last week and will be publicized to state agencies next week. Cataloging and cleanup are being done by staff working at home.

Courtney Oberhansli – printed a faceshield and is willing to use the library's 3D printer to help out but hasn't found a need in the community. Tammy will connect her with Carson City. Library plans are very

fluid right now. They are pushing Overdrive and will be relying on Beanstack for summer reading. They are still hopeful about summer reading – one idea is to notify people that they can pick up prizes at the library door. Courtney started a drawing class on Facebook and hopes to do it weekly plus add other topics.

Eric Walsh – Great Basin College is facing a 4% budget cut this fiscal year and additional cuts next FY with the likelihood of staff furloughs. The college already had a vibrant online presence, and the library was accustomed to supporting that. Their biggest hurdle is equity issues as internet access is spotty in the rural areas.

Anna Brueher – Lyon County schools are back from Spring Break and teachers are gearing up for online. The school district is not a 1-1 district in regard to technology. They chose to focus on collaboration and have a ratio of 12 computers per teacher with about two-thirds of the schools having received computers. There are quite a few areas in the district without computers or internet access, and she will try to get answers about the underserved.

Tammy mentioned that she feels the library community is aligning and that families are going to find the libraries. Anna commented that she is looking forward to the summer reading program as a way for kids to stay engaged with learning and reading.

Kim Diehm – Boulder City has a few Covid cases and are concerned about their patrons because of the large retiree population. Staff is mostly working from home and going in on as-needed basis. They are offering a mindfulness class on YouTube as well as story times; wifi can be accessed from amphitheater as well as parking lot; have set up ecards and issued over 50 cards so far; and just launched an information/reference phone number that staff can answer from home. All summer reading performers are cancelled through June. The biggest challenge is moving forward and how that will look.

Maggie Farrell – UNLV library staff continue to support students and faculty with online reference and some online instruction as well as seeking alternatives for print materials on reserve. They expect the connections they have made with the Hathi Trust's National Emergency Library, the Internet Archive and other cooperatives to continue into the future. They partnered with university IT to distribute 300 laptops and are also utilizing their 3D printers for equipment for University Health Services. While they are also facing budget cuts with a hiring freeze and likely staff furloughs, they also have an Internal Morale Committee which is doing weekly pick me up songs, contests, photos of home baking and officemates, etc, to boost spirits.

Jessica Anderson – With Humboldt County having around 20 cases and the first death reported yesterday, staff morale has been the biggest challenge. The staff are all working in the library and are doing a lot of online programming on Facebook since it's the place everyone goes to find information in Winnemucca. They are using their 3D printer to print ear guards for facemasks for health care workers, and the Mucca Mask Makers are making cloth facemasks.

Tammy closed the meeting by expressing her optimism that closer cooperation between schools and libraries will be a result of the new reality.

Next meeting – next Tuesday, April 21 at 10:00 am.

Zoom link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/917283646>

Meeting ID: 917 283 646

One tap mobile

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